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NUMBER 1.

How to Double Our Membership in the Next Twelve Months.

As the time of the year is here when people make resolutions to do better, and fail to keep their resolutions, I suggest they make resolutions this time to get other people to do better, and keep those resolutions for one year faithfully.

We would like to see our membership doubled in the next twelve months, and this desirable object can be accomplished if we go to work right. Let every brother and sister look around their circle of friends and select those they would like to see in the church, some unconverted person or persons they would like to see converted, then call on that person and let them to take the BRETHREN'S EVANGELIST. If the person is unwilling to take the paper, as some will be, take the paper for them. If you cannot take it for one year take it for six months; if you do not feel able yourself, spend an hour or two in getting some persons to help you. Whatever effort it may cost, get the paper into the houses of those you are interested in.

In every community there are persons thinking about joining church, and they need only a good paper to gather up their wandering thoughts and wrap them around Jesus. We can have such persons—we make the effort. Let us make the effort; a dollar and a half, or seventy-five cents, will make us no poorer in the judgment hour, but a saved soul through our instrumentality will make us rich.

Having selected the persons you would like to see in the church, and started the paper to them, make the latter the subject of earnest prayer. Elijah repaired the altar prepared the sacrifice, made all things ready; but that was not enough, he knelt down and prayed then the fire came, the sacrifice was consumed and the victory won.

Start the paper send the tract, speak the good word, then go to your closet and pray. Do not pray once and then stop. Keep praying. In this case,—not only strike while the iron is hot, but make the iron hot by striking. Pray in secret for that friend, and you will be rewarded, openly in the conversion of that friend. God has given me the soul of every friend I ever prayed for, and he will be a good to you as he is to me, if you only trust him.

Do not be discouraged if the work is not accomplished as soon as you expect. God has promised to answer prayer, but he has not mentioned the hour in which he will answer prayer. A failure to realize an expectation now, is no proof we will not realize our expectation in the future. Mary and Martha were in trouble, and they sent a message to Jesus telling him Lazarus was sick. How disappointed they were because Jesus did not come to them. When he did come they thought it too late, and said, "Lord if thou hadst been here my brother had not died." But Jesus knew what he was doing, and Lazarus was resurrected. You may expect him at a certain time

and he comes not, do not be discouraged; he will come, and your loved ones, dead in sins will be quickened into new life.

Get the paper into the homes of the people, talk to them on the subject of religion, tell your pastor soon as you find one interested, back your efforts with earnest prayer to God, and you will gain the day. I call on every brother and sister having the cause at heart, to try this practical plan to double our membership in the next twelve months.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

New Organization.

BEAVER CITY, NEBRASKA.—The Brethren in Beaver Valley, eight in number, five brethren and three sisters, feeling that the Master's cause could more successfully be carried on by an organization, met at the house of Israel Baer's, in the afternoon of Dec. 7th, 1884. Myself and brother H. E. Faidley, of Burr Oak, Kans., being present, and Elder Jacob Armsbarger, of Rockwell City, having been consulted, the first Brethren church in Beaver Valley, was organized. In the organization brethren Israel Baer and B. F. Seibert were called to the office of Deacons, and brother John Frank, treasurer, and brother Peter Baer, clerk. As each organization should have a name by which to be known from other organizations of the same order, and as most of the brethren came formerly from Somerset county, Pa., it seemed most natural for them to select as their name the Somerset church. Hence in speaking or writing of this organization, we should remember it is the Somerset Brethren church, Beaver City, Nebraska.

The main body of the Brethren is located about three and a half or four miles east of Beaver City, in Beaver Valley, on Beaver Creek. There is some excellent country in this part of Furnas county, and it is our impression that in the not far distant future it will establish itself as such in the public mind. The country is settled up with a class of people who will make any one feel at home while among them. Even a limited number of young ladies could do well here. They should remember the good book says: "It is not well for man to dwell alone."

My dear brethren in the ministry, do not forget the Somerset Brethren church, Beaver City, Neb. Make them a visit and speak a word of encouragement whenever you can. It will do them good as well as you, and the good cause will be made to prosper.

Dear brethren of the Somerset church: You are a little band at present, but remember you are not alone. With Jesus at the helm, you cannot fail to come off more than conquerors amid all the conflicts of life. Do not be discouraged: you are on the field of battle. Be sure and have the blood-stained flag of King Emmanuel, in living colors, ever floating over you, and Jesus will conquer for you. With best wishes I am, fraternally yours, C. FORNEY.

Fairview, Kans.

I wish to tell the readers of the EVANGELIST of a glorious meeting at our place. On the evening of the 28th of November, after we had retired for the night we were suddenly aroused by the rapping of some one at our door, and to our surprise, were met by brother J. C. Cripe, of Michigan, cold and wearied. We were not long in enquiring the object of his mission. He replied, "To preach Christ, and to look at your country." Accordingly we circulated an appointment for him on Sabbath, November 30th, as the commencement service. He preached for us of evenings, principally, until Dec. 10th. Four precious souls were added to our little flock; two by relation from the German Baptists, and two by baptism. During the daytime we showed him over the country. On Dec. 1st we visited Samuel Ulery, of Crawford county, brother of Elder D. C. Ulery, of South Bend, Ind. He is quite aged, but is enjoying good health. Though of the German Baptists, he received us with hand and kiss, as he used to do, and much deplored the divided state of the church. Elder Martin Neher accompanied us on this visit and treated us just like a Christian. We much regret the "iron rule" that binds brother Neher, and pray God that he may have the moral courage to act out the inward promptings of his soul.

Brother Cripe's visit has much revived us, and we sincerely hope that he may locate among us. He expressed himself much pleased with our country and with the behavior of our people. Instead of rude pioneers, he found a refined, intelligent and God-loving people, ready to accept the truth as it fell from the lips of Jesus. We love the cause of the Master, and invite all Gospel-loving brethren to come among us. We deplore division but have no tears to shed over the downfall of traditions. We stand ready to unite with all upon the Gospel-alone platform, but tradition can never again interpose between us and the Savior of mankind.

We think a Convention would be in order to perfect what is yet lacking. We need help here in the West. The fields are ripe unto the harvest, but the laborers are lacking. Who will come over and help us? We need meeting houses, but we are not able to build them. Our bodies are small and weak and some arrangement for assisting these weak churches would certainly be well pleasing unto God. We expect to begin a protracted meeting at "Dry-wood", eight miles south of Ft. Scott, Dec. 20th, the Lord willing. Brethren pray for us.

A. J. HIXSON.

Meetings and Communion.

LOUISVILLE, Ohio.—Our new church was dedicated on the 7th of December. Brother R. F. Mallott preached the sermon for the occasion. Brother E. L. Yoder was also present and assisted in the services. The services were very satisfactory and a general good feeling prevailed. About three hundred dollars

were secured, which leaves a balance of two hundred which the church assumed. The meetings continued from day to day until the evening of the 17th, when they closed with a communion service, amidst a crowded house. Forty-three communed; and at the close we extended another invitation, and one more dear sister came forward, and we realized the truth, that every dark cloud has a silver lining. That having passed through troubles and trials and discouragements without a house to worship in during the past summer, the Lord has blessed us with means and willing hearts and hands and we have erected a house unto the Lord, where we can worship him according to his word free from the traditions of men, and through the instrumentality of God's servant, our dear brother Mallott, who labored so earnestly, ably, and satisfactorily. We were made to rejoice that when the invitation was given, six of the G. B. members came forward and were gladly received into our number; and three came out and were buried with Christ in baptism, to walk in newness of life. Immediate results: nine accessions, and many more were almost persuaded; but brother Mallott had other engagements so we had to close our meetings for the present.

Praise the Lord for his goodness!
JOSIAH KEIM.

Louisville, Ohio.

Your paper is very much appreciated in our family. It is always full of good words and cheering news and it helps me along in my religious duties. Brother Mallott was with us and preached the Gospel with such power, that souls were saved through Christ. Nine were added to the fold and others were almost persuaded. We hope Bro. Mallott may come again.

JACOB PECK.

Lanark, Ill.

Dec. 18th, 1884.—Since the close of our series of meetings, we have been trying to put forth a little extra effort in the Master's cause. On the evening of the 14th inst, after our regular services, one came forward and desired to go with the people of God. On Monday we went into the little stream and buried him in baptism, that henceforth he might walk in newness of life. It was rather a cold day for such work. We take courage and press forward, trusting in the righteousness of the cause we advocate.

Z. T. LIVENGOOD.

California News.

RHONVILLE, CAL., Dec. 1, 1884.—We held our lovefeast at Bro. Sutherland's house last Saturday evening. It was among the best feasts I ever enjoyed. This is the second private communion we have held this summer, only a few intimate friends being present. The church is decidedly in favor of continuing to hold them in this way. I was assisted by ministers E. G. Wilson, of Eureka, and Charles Meyers, of this place.

ELDER J. MEYERS.

Notes and Jottings.

During the last month (December,) I held a short series of meetings in Louisville, Stark county, Ohio, where the Brethren have erected a new church, which was dedicated during my stay with them, an account of which appeared in the EVANGELIST from brother Yoder. One correction I wish to make—the collection on day of dedication was \$321.00, instead of \$121.00 as appeared from Bro. Yoder's report. The brethren here are too liberal in the Lord's work to let a collection rest at \$121.00, and Bro. Yoder knew it too; it was a slip of the editor's pencil. Our meetings were well attended and we had a season of joy in worshipping together. Once in a while it was sad when we would think of old Bro. Moses Keim, who had so faithfully labored in the erection of the new church, and was called from earth and its labors but a few days before its dedication to the Lord. But amidst this sorrow there was a sweet consolation to know that he died in the Lord and still lives in the hearts of those who knew him. I could not help but think of this truth—"The sorrow for the dead is the only sorrow from which we refuse to be divorced; every other wound we seek to heal, every other sorrow to forget." It is a thought demonstrated to us repeatedly, that remembering the righteous dead begets a hallowed influence that really feeds the soul. Such was my experience when in the former home of our deceased brother. The Brethren at Louisville are wide-awake in the Master's service. We shall ever remember the hospitality shown us there. The weather was so unfavorable that I did not get out into the country among the membership as I desired. I dined out of town one day, at sister Katie Harshbarger's. I enjoyed the visit so much. Bro. Jessie also visited with us here. He is one of those cheerful working brethren that don't scare at anything—storm or cold; a positive Christian, as J. C. Martin puts it. In fact, the Louisville church as far as I could see, has no negative Christians, and under the pastorate of brother Josiah Keim, I don't expect to see it otherwise. I formed happy acquaintances with brethren who live in the Sandy Creek congregation.

Our work at home is somewhat crippled by the locking of our churches. We do hope to see the day when love shall so fill the hearts of our G. B. Brethren that we can not only use the same house but meet at the same time. I feel sure that our brethren would feel as David expressed it, "I was glad when they said let us go into the house of the Lord." But we shall work for peace, both within and without. "Let us live peaceably with all men as much as lieth in us." We shall try to hold a series of meetings at our home church and also our feast, which in consequence of work elsewhere has been postponed.

The most pleasing feature of our Louisville meeting was the lovefeast. R. F. MALLOTT.